

Dear Joe,

12/24/91

Up my usual too early, as I sat and drank my first cup of coffee my mind went back to yesterday and what I left to do this morning, correct and mail a letter of which I'll send you a copy to the 'Times' oped editor. I appreciate your promptness in mailing me the 'Times' review of the Stone movie. In the same mail, which was five hours late yesterday, was what I expected and believed I would want to address immediately, Stone's oped piece of the same day. I did that although really too tired and if I'd wanted to read and correct then phone calls would have prevented it anyway. However, I did also recall the note you added. Ordinarily it would have been good, practical advice, to advertise our books and take advantage of the furor over the Stone movie for which I am responsible.

I realize that for you ~~at~~ and other of my friends it may seem impractical for me not to do some of the things I do not do, as the converse may also seem to be. You may also be surprised that I have just for the second or third time recently rejected an offer to reprint my first book. It would seem that this would give us immediate cash, as it would, and reduce our work by that much. For us it just does not work out, practical as it may seem. The "advance", which I've learned is what writers must learn can be all they get and can be taken as an indication of what effort the publisher will make, was inadequate and just referring orders to the publisher would be only part of the added work and cost we'd have.

Advertising seems to be in order but for us it isn't. If we got a flood of orders, really many more than we now get without the cost of advertising, it would create new problems and costs and would at least to a degree prevent or limit what I am able to do besides wrap and mail packages. The paperwork, which Lil does, also would make major problems for her, particularly now, with the tax season at hand. She enjoys that work and those challenges and although she has had to notify some of her clients that she can no longer do this work for them because ^{now} she simply ~~is~~ isn't able to, those whose taxes she will continue to do are either good friends or those who have special problems and depend on her.

While it is not true every day, many days recently, for quite some time, the orders cannot go out as soon as I package them because although we have the largest mailbox permitted it will not hold them all. With more orders I would have to make trips to the post office to mail them, another cost and time-taker.

The conditions of our life are unusual. They come from the decision I made years ago, to overcome publisher fear of addressing the JFK assassination factually by becoming a publisher. I cannot say I am without regrets but I never think that way and I do not feel any. I would have been able to do more and we'd have lived better if I'd had a publisher and we did not have the work of making and mailing packages. Maybe history would not have been different, as I think it has been, but there was the additional benefit of my being completely independent and being able to say what I wanted to say. Shalom! *Heidi*